



10/14/04

I FW

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 3679 : Confirmation No. 8959
: :
: :
In re application of: : Title:
Diggle et al. : Split P-Hook
Serial No.: 10/646,006 :
: :
Filed: August 22, 2003 :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pittsburgh, PA
October 13, 2004

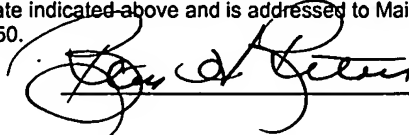
Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

Applicants, in accordance with the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, hereby advise the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the accompanying Forms PTO/SB/08A *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* (substitute for Form 1449A/PTO).

Express Mail Number ED 249 800 71305
Date of Deposit October 13, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Applicants note that although the cited references may be relevant to the examination of the above-referenced application, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* "shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b)."

Applicants further note that the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* is not an admission that the references cited herein constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 with respect to the captioned application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), Applicants submit that no fee is necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant*. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fees deemed necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* to Account No. 11-1110.

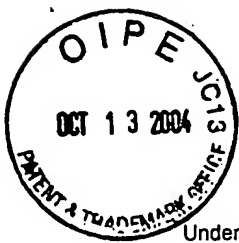
Respectfully submitted,



Craig M. Waller
Reg. No. 54,771

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312

Telephone: (412) 355-8355
Facsimile: (412) 355-6501
E-mail: cwaller@kl.com



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/646,006		
		Filing Date	August 22, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	Diggle		
		Art Unit	3679		
		Examiner Name			
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	030266

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-5,606,832A	03-1997	Keith et al.	
		US-4,157,001A	06-1979	Pickles, Allan E.	
		US-4,018,023A	04-1977	Anderson, Ralph A.	
		US-5,549,234A	08-1996	Hong, Wong Y.	
		US-5,513,935A	05-1996	Sharber et al.	
		US-3,934,802A	01-1976	Jennings, Ralph Ernest	
		US-3,848,080A	11-1974	Schmidt, Bradley J.	
		US-3,341,651A	09-1967	JOHN ODEGAARD	
		US-2,307,348A	01-1943	SIG ANDERSON CHESTER	
		US-2,188,084A	01-1940	BERTHOLD KUCKUCK	
		US-279,113A	06-1883	Clow	
		US-83,913A	11-1868	Bradley	
		US-3,483,790A	12-1969	MATTHEWS HERBERT L	
		US-2,257,640A	09-1941	MULLER GEORGE W	
		US-1,313,795A	08-1919	Davis, A.P.	
		US-975,235A	11-1910	Hansen, C.	
		US-682,753A	09-1901	Teele, J.W.	
		US-415,181A	11-1889	Wilcox, W.R.	
		US-2002/0098062A1	07-2002	Beale et al	
		US-1,798,468A	03-1931	HARTZLER MELVIN E. et al.	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington.

PI-1242024 v1 0224285-0311



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary) Sheet 2 of 2		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	10/646,006
		Filing Date	August 22, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Diggle
		Art Unit	3679
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	030266

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-4,289,058A	09-1981	Paskert, Joseph H.	
		US-3,088,361A	05-1963	LAY HALLOCK ROBERT	
		US-2,697,857A	12-1954	ECKEL OLIVER C	
		US-306,874A	10-1884	Thatcher, C.D.	
		US-RE9,440E	11-1880	Judd, A.D.	
		US-543,121	07-1895	Bates	
		US-601,849	04-1898	Aiken	
		US-4,068,790	01-1978	Osterle et al.	
		US-4,449,612	05-1984	Southard, Benny S.	
		US-5,279,388	01-1994	Laughlin et al.	
		US-5,624,007	04-1997	Mahaffy, Marvin	
		US-5,881,837	03-1999	Leicht, Frank	
		US-5,887,677	03-1999	Malmgren, Ulf	
		US-5,967,475	10-1999	Johnson, Bobby W.	
		US-6,585,142	07-2003	Chen, Tung-Hsien	
		US-6,729,437	05-2004	Apple, Gregory L.	
		US-2003/0140739	07-2003	McKivigan, Timothy	
		US-2004/0064932	04-2004	Sprague, Theodore	
		US2004/0099300	05-2004	Warren, Bruce A.	
		US2004/0129496	07-2004	Clark, Dale	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington.